

years before he was eligible under Army enlistment rules. On May 6, 1937, Whitmore was promoted to Corporal and later to Sergeant. For the next few years he served in the National Guard and until February 24, 1941, when he was called up to Active Federal Service.

After completing Officer Candidacy School in Ft. Benning, GA, Whitmore was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and entered the Army Ranger Combat Training program. After completing Ranger Training, Lt. Whitmore took part in the invasion of Normandy, where he bravely fought on Utah Beach.

He served on the front lines of Europe bravely defending his country, leading platoons of soldiers throughout the Normandy and Rhineland campaigns. On July 15, 1944, Lt. Whitmore was wounded in combat by an enemy artillery shell in northern France while pressing an attack against the German front.

During his 18 years of service to our country Lt. Whitmore received several service honors, including the Purple Heart Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge and two Bronze Service Stars, among many others.

In August of 2008, Lt. Whitmore returned to Tennessee to make his home in Normandy, TN, where he resided with his wife of 74 years, and his youngest daughter and son-in-law until his passing on October 9, 2015, at the age of 96.

To the family of Lt. Whitmore, we are sincerely grateful for his service. George truly exemplified the spirit of "the Greatest Generation."

H.R. 3762, GOP RECONCILIATION ACT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 2015, I was unable to be here to vote on H.R. 3762 (Roll Call 568), the GOP Reconciliation Act. Had I been present, I would have voted no on H.R. 3762. I have voted against this bill twice, once in the Energy & Commerce Committee and again in the Budget Committee. I was unable to make the vote because I was back in my district to attend a meeting with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, parents, students and teachers to work directly on a huge challenge of improving schools in that community that are failing our children.

Below are the statements I made during the Energy & Commerce Committee and Budget Committee markups of H.R. 3762.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

"This is creating great economic uncertainty. Back home, I represent a district with an Air Force base that is home to U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command. They are beside themselves about the inability of the Congress to move forward with a reasonable budget plan. It is now complicating the military missions of our country. They don't want another CR. That is a dead end. They don't want an OCO gimmick that doesn't serve our country well. They want those monies in the base defense budget, and have spoken out loudly.

And then on the domestic side our medical researchers, transportation, infrastructure,

all of those important jobs that help lift America are also being undercut by the uncertainty created here in the Congress.

Now, I am very happy this is being done in an open setting today, because it really lays bare the priorities of the two parties here in Congress. The Democratic priority is to address the budget uncertainty, come together, work out a plan to move forward and avoid the government shutdown. The Republican priority, however, is to continue to attack women's health care and intimidate Planned Parenthood nonprofit clinics and the women that go there for their health services. This witch hunt continues, and it is not serving the interests of our great country. It is beneath the dignity of this Congress, because what is going to happen when we come back after next week? There is a new Benghazi-like select committee to continue this witch hunt.

I mean, this is really an all-time low. There has been an attack on women's health now for decades, but now the all-time low is what happened this summer with these manufactured YouTube videos now becoming the basis of public policy in America while all the investigations done here in the Congress and in States across the country have demonstrated no wrongdoing whatsoever. So we are going to waste taxpayer funds and important time on this witch hunt? I think it is very unfortunate.

You know, the approval ratings of Congress are at an all-time low, and I have to say, this demonstrates why that is, because it is Congress and the governing—so called governing party, is not focused on the priorities for our great country, instead, focused on intimidating women and trusted clinics across the country. I urge a no vote on this and the reconciliation package. Thank you."

ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

"Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I have to say, the Republican majority has really taken us back in a time warp today. It feels like we are probably back in the 1950s. The first half of the hearing was on energy policy, was very anti-science. It was practically the world is flat. They refused to address the changing climate, and the challenges that poses for our country and our communities, refused to modernize America's energy policy by unleashing innovation to benefit consumers and businesses all across America. But now the GOP majority wants to restrict contraceptives, and family planning services. This is decades old in—and it is another unconscionable attack on women's health and Planned Parenthood.

And I wanted to pose a question, which is doing more today in America to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies. Certainly not the Republicans in Congress, who continue to vote to block access to contraceptives, and family planning, as they are No, it is Planned Parenthood that is doing more to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies in America.

Now, although the GOP attacks on women's health have gone on for years here in the Congress, we recently hit a new low this summer, when a shady group, that is actually under criminal investigation, helped launch a broad-based smear campaign against Planned Parenthood. To date, all of the investigations that have been launched have turned up there is no evidence to substantiate the allegations that Planned Parenthood, or any of its affiliates, violated the law, including an investigation by this very Committee.

Actually, what the evidence has turned up so far is that Mr. Dunliden, and his organization that doctored the YouTube videos, misrepresented itself to gain access to medical conferences and Planned Parenthood facili-

ties. They should be the ones that are under investigation and brought to account. The investigations out there so far have showed that the videos are selectively edited, they repeatedly omit exculpatory statements about compliance with the law. We simply cannot allow Republicans in Congress to use these falsified videos to continue their extremist agenda against women and deny women access to comprehensive healthcare.

You know, this is the House of Representatives, and the population of the United States of America is a little more female, about 50—a little over 50 percent. But here in the Congress, you all know what the percentage is. It is under 20 percent female. Well, it certainly shows. I will urge my colleagues to defeat this attempt, again, to paint another chapter in the radical agenda against women's health. . . . I hope you have read the legislation that will be considered today, because what it will do is eliminate access to contraceptives and family planning. If my Republican colleagues truly believe that there should be family planning services, and contraceptives allowed to women and families across America, they should vote no on this radical idea, and this idea of reconciliation today. I will yield back the balance of my time."

Again, if I was present for the vote today on H.R. 3762, I would have voted no.

THE GLOBAL CRISIS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the world is experiencing a crisis of international religious freedom that poses a direct challenge to U.S. interests in the Middle East, Central and East Asia, Russia, China, and sub-Saharan Africa. In large parts of the world, this fundamental freedom is constantly and brutally under siege. The worldwide erosion of respect for this fundamental freedom is the cause of widespread human suffering, grave injustices, refugee flows, and significant threats to peace and stability.

This Congress has heard the cries of Iraqi and Syrian Christians who face the threat of extinction, slavery, and death. We have heard about the plight of Rohingya Muslims, who face attacks and such unimaginable discrimination from hard-line Buddhist groups that many chose slavery elsewhere than life in Burma. We have heard about the persecution faced by Chinese Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims, and Falun Gong at the hands of a Communist Party suspicious of organized religion. And, many of us on this subcommittee have seen firsthand the religious dividing lines in sub-Saharan Africa that are the cause of so much death and destruction.

In a world where some people are willing to kill those whose beliefs differ from theirs, where anti-Semitism persists even in the most tolerant of places, and where authoritarian governments view strong religious faith as a potential threat to their legitimacy, it is more important than ever that the U.S. engage in robust religious freedom diplomacy. One that uses all the tools available is the landmark International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

The stakes are too high and the suffering too great to downplay religious freedom as a